



PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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**PASSAIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

CASTLE
VALLEY ROAD, PATERSON N.J. 07503

Holiday Exhibit Thru January 31

The Society's holiday exhibit "Through A Child's Eyes: A Look At Christmas Past" will feature a unique display of antique toys and games. In addition to the toy display, the castle parlor and dining room will be festively decorated for the holidays. This special exhibit opens December 11 and runs through January 31.

Plan to visit during the holiday season. Our gift shop will also be open for your holiday shopping needs. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday 1-4 p.m. The museum will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day.

In the Collections

Curatorial work on the Society's extensive pamphlet collection has begun. The collection contains political, social, economic, and religious materials of the Passaic County area dating from the early 19th century to the present. Volunteers are removing pamphlets from aging and brittle folders and placing them into archival quality envelopes. Once completed, this project will help preserve these important documents and make them more accessible to researchers.

Several silk crazy quilts and a silk sample book from the Society's collections are currently on loan to the New Jersey State Museum for the exhibit "New Jersey Crazy Quilts 1875-1900." The exhibit will run through January 8, 1989.

Old Favorites, Anew

The Historical Society has assembled a truly remarkable collection of local historical artifacts during its many years. For reasons of space limitations, preservation, fragility or security, the majority of these objects must remain in storage at any one time. Changing exhibits, however, often bring out fondly remembered objects for viewing within a new context.

This year our Christmas exhibit, "Through A Child's Eye: A Look At Christmas Past," will include one such old favorite, and probably create some new ones. Many will remember a high wheeled bicycle that was on exhibit some years ago. Known as an "ordinary," it was a fashionable amusement during the 1870-1880s. It will return, along with other Victorian children's toys.

A new display will highlight a late nineteenth-early twentieth century child's puppet theater. Made of printed paper on board and wood, possibly German made, it will delight young and old alike. Included in its repertoire is the scenery for the childhood classic "Hansel and Gretel." Come and enjoy the surprises and memories here, at the castle, this holiday season!

Children's Valentine Workshop

Reproductions of antique valentines will be made at a children's craft workshop on Saturday, February 4th. The workshop is designed for children ages 6-12. A materials fee of \$3.00 for Non-members' children and \$2.50 for members' children will be charged.

Participants are requested to bring a pair of safety scissors. For reservations please call 881-2761.

Wright Aero

The Society's collection of Wright Aeronautical materials will be inventoried thanks to the assistance of Jerry and Edith Abbamont of Teaneck, N.J. Jerry was a long time employee of the Wright Corporation and he and his wife have spent the past several years helping preserve the history of the company through lending their expertise to exhibitions at both the Paterson Museum and Aviation Hall of Fame in Teterboro.

At the Society, Jerry will conduct a detailed inventory of the Wright collection and reorganize it so that it is more accessible for future research use. The project should take several months to complete.

During the course of the project, the Society is looking to add to this important local historical collection. Anyone having information or artifacts (photos, documents, etc.) relating to the Wright Aeronautical Corporation, please contact the Society at 881-2761.

This Newsletter is published as a membership privilege of the Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, New Jersey 07503. Telephone (201) 881-2761. Office Hours are Monday through Friday (9:00 - 4:00). President: Norman Robertson; Director: Susan Pumilia.

Recent Donations

Since its founding in 1927, the Historical Society has been enriched by continued support and gifts from hundreds of individual donors. Their generosity has created rich collections of historical artifacts, works of art, archival, genealogical and library materials which illustrate this county's unique past. The Society would like to thank those who have contributed so much to our understanding of the past.

Today, new donations continue to augment the collections. Among the objects and records given recently are a particularly important group from Mr. Raymond F. Dey. This donation includes a metal template from the studio of noted local sculptor Gaetano Federici and the 1848-1853 inventory ledger from the chair factory of Bushnell and Imnan. Sketch books from Paterson architect James Lee Holt's estate were presented by executor, Mr. Frank Higginbotham. Mr. Higginbotham also donated an exquisite volume of calligraphy, pin and hair weave art from the Van Nest family, c. 1850-1900 and a farm ledger from the Stuyvesant family, 1842-1852. All of these items cast light on widely different aspects of Passaic County's historical experience.

Finally, we would like to extend a warm thank you to Miss Virginia Peterson. Over the years, she has given the Society many unique photographs, memorabilia and other family heirlooms. Her donations have greatly enriched the Society.



A Big Thank You to all those who volunteered their time to help out at our recent Christmas Craft Show. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Pins, Charms, and Keychains bearing the Lambert Castle logo are now available in The Museum Shop. Charms are \$2.00, Pins \$2.25 and Keychains \$2.50. Supplies are limited; order yours today!



Folk Finder

The Folk Finder column is devoted to helping genealogical researchers locate northern New Jersey ancestors/descendants. We invite researchers to submit requests for help, inquiries about family names, or queries concerning the exchange of family information. If you can assist any of our submitters, please contact them directly, or call Annita Zalenski (201) 595-7684.

1. Mary Kimble Cann, 45 West Barber Avenue, Woodbury, New Jersey 08096, would like to obtain a copy of the book *Alexander Brown and His Descendants, 1764-1916*, by M.E. Brown, 1917.
2. Catherine Steward Romero, 5669 D Harpers Farm Road, Columbia, Maryland 21044, is searching for information concerning the KEEFE family who immigrated from Scotland to Passaic County and lived in this area circa 1850 to 1900. It is known that MARGARET KEEFE and husband CHARLES SPINDLER, lived on a farm in Wayne Township from 1850 to about 1880. Their niece, ELIZABETH McLEAN, resided with them. CATHERINE KEEFE and husband JOHN K. PATTERSON, lived in Passaic County sometime between 1850-1860 before moving to Wisconsin. Any information about the KEEFE, SPINDLER, PATTERSON and McLEAN families would be greatly appreciated.
3. L. Doris Rawson Offenbach, 23567 Acacia Court, Auburn, California 95603 seeks information about her father, EDWIN PLATT LEO RAWSON, b. 29 October 1886, Paterson, NJ. Edwin's mother was MARY ANN MORRIS, b. 27 October 1859, Paterson, NJ; his father was JOSEPH GRAHAM RAWSON, b. 1856, Paterson, NJ.
4. Jerry L. Titus, P.O. Box 705, Warsaw, Indiana 46580 is looking for documentation concerning grandfathers in his TITUS family line. Any information about the following men, their wives, and children would be most helpful to Mr. Titus' research: CORNELIUS F. TITUS, b. 2 October 1828, Paterson, m. Hester (?), d. 24 December 1898, Atwood, Indiana; CORNELIUS B. TITUS, b. ca. 1804, Paterson, m. SALLY DOTY, d. (?); and THADDEUS TITUS, b. (?), m. POLLY BROWN, d. 15 October 1838, Paterson.
5. Barbara B. Cowin, 866 West 4th Street, Ontario, California 91762, is a descendant of the LITTLE/LITTELL family. Allied families are CONKLIN, CAULDWELL, and WHITAKER. Mrs. Cowin would be happy to correspond with anyone researching these families and share information

Genealogy Library Hours

The Society is pleased to announce extended hours for its Genealogy Library, thanks to the assistance of Genealogy Club volunteers Elizabeth Rizzolo, Ruth Fern, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Drake, Mr. and Mrs. David Van Dillen, Betty Van Hook and Isabelle Kerwin.

For specific hours of operation, please contact the Society office at 881-2761.

Genealogy Club 1989 Calendar

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| January 14 | "Paterson: A Slide Presentation" - Grace George, Paterson Tour Office |
| February 11 | "Living Stones of the Paterson Diocese" - Rev. R.J. Kupke |
| March 11 | "Oral History: A Tool For Genealogy" - Muriel Berson |
| April 8 | Field Trip to National Archives, Bayonne. |

Meetings are held in Lambert Castle and start at 10:00 a.m.

New Volunteers

Among our volunteers joining the staff of the Society this year is Miss Susan Wright. Susan is a History major at William Paterson College and has been considering entering the museum or archaeological fields after graduation.

During her many hours of collections work and occasional docenting, Susan has gotten a taste of both. In the archaeological collections, she has reconstructed several 18th and early 19th century sgrafitto platters. Susan has also worked on our pamphlet collections, and most recently, she made a tape of seasonal music box music for the holiday exhibit. Our thanks for all her thought, hard work, and enthusiasm.